

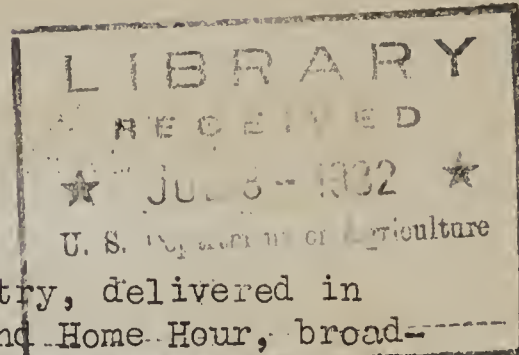
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GARDEN CALENDAR



A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 49 associate NBC stations, Tuesday, June 7, 1932.

When my garden calendar talk was interrupted last Tuesday, I was telling you about the proper methods of planting and transplanting peonies. You may recall I mentioned that the peony is one of our most attractive perennial flowers, that the roots should be divided and reset late in the summer or early in the fall, that no manure should come in direct contact with the roots, but that a large handful of bone meal should be mixed with the soil in each hole. I think that I told you that peonies should be set at least three feet apart and I am sure that I said that peony roots should not be planted too deep. Many of the failures in growing peonies are due to deep planting. I dare say some of you have the idea that peony roots should be covered 5 or 6 inches deep, but that is all wrong. Set the roots so that the buds or eyes will be exactly 2 inches below the surface when covered and the soil firmed down a trifle. Don't guess at the depth but measure it.

It is still too early to divide and reset peonies but it is a good idea to get the place where you are going to plant them all ready and order the roots if you are buying any new ones. I am going to mention five good varieties, the same five that we mentioned on our progressive garden club program two weeks ago. Here they are: White varieties, Francis Willard and Festiva Maxima; light pink, President Taft; dark pink, Kelway's Queen; red, Richard Carvel.

The next perennial that I want to mention today is the iris. These beautiful perennials have just finished blooming in many sections and within the next thirty days will be the proper time to divide and reset certain kinds. There are several rather distinct groups of iris and varieties without number. First there are two main groups, the one group including the Japanese and Siberian irises have bulbs and the other group that has fleshy roots or rhizomes. Right now we are more concerned with the group that have the fleshy roots or rhizomes, the pogons or bearded irises. The fleshy roots or rhizomes of this group, as you know, grow almost on top of the ground and they literally crowd each other out of the ground. When they become too thick you can lift and divide them. This should be done soon after they bloom. First take a sharp knife or pair of heavy shears and cut off the foliage about three inches above the crowns, then run a spade or shovel under the roots, lift them and divide them into one or two-crown plants. When you reset the roots in a new location place them in a horizontal position and almost on top of the ground. Don't set them too close, 18 inches in each direction is about right for they grow rapidly and soon fill up the space.

The Siberian and Japanese irises have bulbs and should be divided in the early spring or late fall. This group does not become crowded so quickly but when the clumps do get too large you can lift them, divide them into smaller portions and reset in a new location. These types of iris require plenty of moisture and grow naturally in low places or along ditch banks; not in the water, but near the water. We have a splendid bulletin on the iris, it is Farmers'

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Bulletin No. 1406. Mr. B. Y. Morrison wrote the bulletin and iris growing is one of Mr. Morrison's hobbies, in fact he has a great many forms growing in his own garden.

The Chrysanthemum is another of our popular fall perennials that can be grown most everywhere. The main point in growing good chrysanthemums is to avoid having the plants too thick. You should divide and reset them in the spring then if you want large flowers grow them on single stems and take off all but the center flower bud. By feeding the plants heavily with liquid manure after the buds begin to form you can greatly increase the size of the flowers.

Roses are now in full bloom in many sections and just a word about their treatment immediately following blooming may not be out of order. A lot of people neglect their roses after they bloom and that is where they loose out on later bloom. Where you cut most of your rose flowers with long stems, this cutting will serve partly for pruning, but is not sufficient and you need to give your roses a thorough pruning just as soon as the main blooming period is over. Head the plants back and thin them so that you will get a strong new growth. After you have cut them back unmercifully then give their roots a big drink of liquid manure and a little top dressing of bone meal. Keep the plants well watered and you should soon have another good crop of blossoms on your tea and hybrid tea roses. Give your climbing roses their major pruning as soon as they finish blooming so that they will form new wood.

There is one more point about your roses and that is to prevent the mildew and blackspot diseases getting started. Now is the time to dust your rose plants with dusting sulphur to prevent these diseases, or you can spray the plants with Bordeaux mixture. The Black-spot is especially troublesome during damp, muggy weather and a protective covering is needed over the foliage to kill the spores or seeds of the disease before they can send their threadlike roots into the tissues of the leaves. The main point is to apply the protective coating early before the disease gets a start then spray or dust every ten days or two weeks to keep the new leaves covered. It's a little trouble I'll admit but you simply can not have good roses without a little trouble.

Next Tuesday I want to mention a few points regarding summer and fall gardens, and until then ---good bye.